

THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER, Pt. 1

2 Chronicles 7.14

Phil. 4:6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (NLT)

James 4.2 ...you have not because you ask not.

From a consideration of these questions, the answer seems to indicate that God is willing to allow His will and His righteousness to be delayed until we, His children, are **o**_____ to His command to pray.

Point 1: God's people **m**_____ pray before God will act. Our prayers release God's will to action.

Jesus made this point to His disciples:

Matt. 16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matt. 18:18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

Point 2: We must direct our prayers to the accomplishment of the **w**_____ of God.

Matt. 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

When we are flippant about living our lives in the midst of God's will – when our prayers are first of all self-centered and not God-centered – such an attitude is a statement of **u**_____.

Dan. 9:18 O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. 19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.

Whatever God wills He does and what He does not will, He will not do, but he will not **do** until we have **p**_____ His will.

So how do we pray God's will?

Matt. 6:7 ...when you pray, do not use vain repetitions (ESV – do not heap up empty phrases) as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Simply to repeat the words “thy will be done” has no affect on the effectiveness of your prayer simply because you say the words.

God is not in the business ignoring man's will or of destroying man's will, but of working **t**_____ man and his will.

Recall the previous sermons related to being filled with the Spirit.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

How do we pray God's will?

Like everything else in the Christian walk, praying in God's will is a skill that is developed over time and with much practice and **d**_____.

While we are in the learning phase, God himself is working in us, bestowing within us “the **m**_____ of Christ.”

Whatever we understand about God's will can never be contrary to His word, therefore, every day we must be...

- Drenched in it
- Immersed in it
- Bathed in it

This is the image Paul intended when he wrote to the church at Colossae:

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...

Point 1: We must pray because the will of God is released for action when we do.

Point 2: Our prayers must be based, not on our personal desires, but upon the perfect will of God.